



### **Congressional Budget Cuts and the Future of Humanitarian Aid**

Earlier this month, the U.S. House of Representatives introduced and subsequently passed House Bill 1. As introduced by House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers, the bill cuts the U.S. government's international affairs budget by 21 percent, or \$11.6 billion. The bill, which is currently before the U.S. Senate, will have devastating consequences for the strength and scope of U.S. conflict prevention and response initiatives, as well as the effectiveness of humanitarian aid programs.

In particular, the budget cuts will significantly strain a number of critical accounts, including international disaster assistance (a 50 percent cut, or \$431 million), migration and refugee assistance (41 percent, or \$687 million, and the Food for Peace program (36 percent, or \$582 million). With regard to U.S. conflict prevention capacity, the budget cuts zero out the Complex Crises Fund, and cuts funding for the Civilian Stabilization Initiative by almost 75 percent.

The budget cuts will place a significant burden on humanitarian situations in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and other locations of particular concern. These cuts put hundreds of thousands of lives at risk, and will have severe repercussions for U.S. national security interests abroad.

**Ask:** Please urge the Senator to restore foreign-operations funding to the Senate appropriations bill.